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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. In isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide consisting of OLLS.
- 2. Am isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide of any one of WQCLLS, WQALLS, VVQVVA or VKQVVA.
- 3. An isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide consisting of GMWQCLLS (SEQ ID NO:13).
- 4. An isolated peptide consisting of GMWQCLLSDSGQVLLE (SEQ ID NO:12)
- 5. An isolated peptide consisting of any one of TGLWQCLLSEGD (SEQ ID NO:14) or VSEEQKVVQVVA (SEQ ID NO:15).
 - 6. An IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising $Xaa_1-LL-Xaa_2$ wherein Xaa_1 and Xaa_2 is any amino acid (SEQ ID NO:1).
 - 7. The IL-16 antagonist peptide of <u>Claim</u> 6 wherein Xaa₁-LL-Xaa₂ is identical to the corresponding native sequence of a mammalian IL-16.
 - 8. An IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising CLLS (SEQ ID NO:2).
 - 9. An IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising $Xaa_1-Xaa_2-Xaa_3-L-L-Xaa_4$ wherein Xaa_1-Xaa_4 is any amino acid (SEQ ID NO:3).
 - 10. The IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 9, wherein Xaa₁ is Trp; Xaa₂ is selected from Gln or Ala, Xaa₃ is selected from Cys or Ala and Xaa₄ is Ser.
 - 11. The IL-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 9, wherein $Xaa_1-Xaa_2-Xaa_3-L-L-Xaa_4$ identical to the corresponding native sequence of a mammalian IL-16.
- 30 12. An IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising WQCLLS (SEQ ID NO:4) or WQALLS (SEQ ID NO:5).

- 13. An IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising Xaa₁-Val-Xaa₂-Val-Xaa₃-Xaa₄ wherein Xaa₁-Xaa₄ is an amino acid (SEQ ID NO:8)
- 14. The L-16 antagonist peptide of Claim 13, wherein Xaa₁-Val-Xaa₂-Val-Xaa₃-Xaa₄ is identical to the corresponding native sequence of a mammalian IL-16.
- 15. An IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising VVQVVA (SEQ ID NO:9) or VVQKVA (SEQ ID NO:11).
- 16. An IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising GMWQCLLS (SEQ ID NO:13).
- 17. An IL-16 antagonist peptide comprising GMWQCLLSDSGQVLLE (SEQ ID NO:12).
- 18. An isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for any one of the peptide of Claims 1-6, 8 or 12.
- 19. An antibody directed against the peptide of any one of Claims 1-6, 8 or 12.
- 20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide of any of Claims 1-6, 8 or 12, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of Claim 19.
- 22. A method of treating an IL-16 mediated disorder in a subject, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the peptide of any of Claims 1-6, 8 or 12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 23. The method of Claim 22, wherein said IL-16 mediated disorder is an inflammatory disease selected from asthma, arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), Systemic Lupus (SLE), multiple sclerosis (MS), Graves opthalmopathy, atopic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis and bullous pemphigoid.

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- 24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising simultaneously administering an anti-inflammatory agent selected from NSAIDS, steroids, anti-TNF α antibody, anti-CD4 antibodies, cyclosporin-A.
- 25. A method of inhibiting the binding of IL-16 to a CD4 receptor comprising the administration of at least one peptide of any one of Claims 1-6, 8 or 12.
 - 26. An IL-16 antagonist.
- 27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an IL-16 antagonist and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
 - 28. A method of treating an IL-16 mediated disorder comprising blocking the interaction of IL-16 with an IL-16 receptor by the administration of an IL-16 antagonist.

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